John Britten had a problem with conventional schooling.

From childhood, he had a learning disability that made reading very difficult for him.

But that didn’t stop him from becoming one of the most creative designers.

He was born in Christchurch in 1950, and lived there nearly all of his life. He learnt by doing. As a teenager, he was already applying himself to practical mechanics. He restored a 1927 Indian Scout motorbike and a derelict truck – he even drove himself to school with them.

Other achievements

He travelled around the local coasts in the house truck, studying birds in flight. This was in pursuit of a dream to fly like a bird – by making an ornithopter, a machine that could fly with a bird’s wing action. The ornithopter was never developed, but he made a glider that could take off in virtually a puff of wind – which is what it did one day during testing, when no one was in it!

Britten set up a company to manufacture limited runs of the Britten bike. He himself switched his attention to other projects – another commercial property, and a design for a bike to relaunch the Indian Scout marque. All this was cut short when he was diagnosed with inoperable cancer. He died in 1995.

<http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/theme.aspx?irn=1487>

Impact on society

To many, John Britten was the embodiment of kiwi ingenuity – someone with a ‘can do’ attitude, a shoestring budget, and a hands-on approach, who could put together an internationally competitive product in his own backyard. However that might be, John Britten was a world class designer, engineer, and craftsman – a genius of technology.

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 http://www.britten.co.nz/photos/images/dcp\_0149.jpg

John Britten Date of birth is August 1

1950.

John Britten was born <1 August 1950-5 Setember 1995>was a New Zealand…John Britten was born from Bruce and Ruvae Britten